STATE OF ISRAEL

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To: The Ambassador, Washington

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From: A. Avidar, New York, Consul General, New York

SUBJECT: Martin Luther King – Negroes

The Ministry of Tourism here has recently been investing rather major efforts in an attempt to bring about Negro pilgrimage of serious dimensions.

Within the framework of these efforts, they brought to Israel some time ago the director of the largest Negro travel agency, and upon her return they have now agreed with her to organize a mass pilgrimage for the coming Easter season.

The travel agency has been in contact with Martin Luther King and, according to them, has obtained his "enthusiastic" consent to head the pilgrims.

Matters will be clarified definitively over the coming weeks, and it may be that in due course it would be worthwhile for you to repeat your official invitation to the man.

In addition to the above, there is also a reasonable possibility that the next annual convention of the association of Negro newspapers, which encompasses about 60 weeklies throughout the country, will convene next summer in Israel. We are cooperating with the local office of the Ministry of Tourism in handling this matter, and it may be that we will ultimately submit a joint official invitation. It is not out of the question that this project will also be connected with some financial outlay.

If the need arises, I will bring the matter in due course before the Hasbara [Information] Committee.

Michael Arnon